

IN THE CLAIMS

1-17 (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for inducing chondro-ostrogenic lineage and promoting of cartilage or bone formation in a person comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a melanoma inhibiting activity factor and at least one biocompatible and/or or biodegradable matrix selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, calcium sulfate, tricalcium phosphate, hydroxylapatite hydroxyapatite, polylactic-coglycolid, polyanhydrides and collagen to a person in need thereof.

19. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a melanoma inhibiting activity factor (MIA) in combination with an osteoinductive protein, wherein said osteoinductive protein is selected from the group consisting of BMP-2, BMP-7 and a hedgehog protein.

20. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ratio of osteoinductive protein : MIA is 1 : 1 to 1 : 20.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the composition comprises a biocompatible matrix.

23. (currently amended) A method for inducing chondro-ostrogenic lineage and promoting of cartilage or bone formation in a person comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a melanoma inhibiting activity factor and at least one biocompatible and/or biodegradable matrix selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, calcium sulfate, tricalcium phosphate, hydroxyapatite, polylactic-coglycolid, polyanhydrides and collagen as claimed in claim 18, wherein the biocompatible matrix is at least one member selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, collagen, heparin, polylactic-coglycolid and and/or polyactic-coglycolid derivatives or combinations thereof.

24. (currently amended) A method of inducting of the chondro-osteogenic lineage and promoting cartilage and/or bone formation comprising administering an effective amount of ~~the a~~ pharmaceutical composition comprising a melanoma inhibiting activity factor, ~~and~~ at least one biocompatible or biodegradable matrix selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, calcium sulfate, tricalcium phosphate, hydroxylapatite, polylactic-coglycolid, polyanhydrides and collagen, and an osteoinductive protein selected from the group consisting of BMP-2, BMP-7 and a hedgehog protein of claim 18 to a subject.

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 24 25, wherein the ratio of osteoinductive protein : MIA is 1 : 1 to 1:20.

28. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 24 25 wherein said the melanoma inhibiting activity factor (MIA) is combined with a said biocompatible matrix.

29. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said biocompatible matrix comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, collagen, heparin, polylactic-coglycolid and polylactic-coglycolid derivatives.

30. canceled

31. canceled

32. canceled

33. (previously amended) A method of treating or repairing at least one of bone or cartilage in a patient comprising administering an effective amount of a melanoma inhibiting activity factor (MIA) to the patient to repair the bone or cartilage.

34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 33, further comprising co-administering an osteoinductive protein ~~is used~~.

35. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a melanoma inhibiting activity factor (MIA) and a biocompatible matrix.

36. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 35, wherein said biocompatible matrix is a three dimensional sponge prepared from collagen, alginate, tricalcium phosphate, and hydroxyapatite.

37. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 35, wherein the biocompatible matrix comprises at least one matrix material selected from the group consisting of alginate, tricalcium phosphate, hyaluronic acid, and calcium sulfate.